

# realencouragement

Lakeshore Community Church

realencouragement.org

Volume 15, No. 2

## Vacationing... from what?

I love the Summer. Even if you're new to Lakeshore, you almost certainly know that the warmer, sunny, longer days are the most energizing ones for me— eating dinner on the backyard deck, walking around in shorts and a t-shirt, going swimming, watching the sun set and the like make these three months the best of the year.

Lots of you are like me when it comes to Summer and for those of you who like the snow and cold, we'll be sure to hold a "healing service" for you... but only after the Summer is over. And of course, nothing beats a vacation away from the daily grind of work. We all were made to take a break regularly.

But one vacation that too many people take during the Summer months is a vacation from God. They break away from the disciplines of Bible reading, prayer, giving, serving, church attendance and replace them with other things. As good as they may be, no vacation can ever take the place of staying close to God. As Jesus said, what would it profit us if we gain the whole world and yet forfeit our soul? The answer is obvious.

So don't take a vacation from God! This Summer we're doing a number of things to help you stay close to Him including:

- 1) Sunday series on "Our Declaration of Dependence" and "My Summer Reading List" featuring some important topics that you'll be able to easily relate to.
- 2) Completing our "Jet Tour Of Revelation" and then studying "Ruth: Devotion And Redemption" at Common Ground Midweek service for those who want more.
- 3) The Global Leadership Summit event Thursday – Friday August 5-6 here at Lakeshore. June 29<sup>th</sup> is the final day to get the special \$75 Lakeshore rate for this first class live via satellite conference featuring Bill Hybels, Tony Dungy, Andy Stanley, T.D. Jakes, Jack Welch, Jim Collins and others.
- 4) Joint service and church picnic on August 22 as we worship together with Ark Of Jesus Ministries, New Way Christian Fellowship Center, Victory Fellowship Center, and Congregation Shema Israel.

Take in the sun, but don't forget the Son!



Pastor Vince



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## Lakeshore Welcomes Interim Music Director to Staff

By Paul Clark

Who was that guy at the piano singing "My Funny Valentine" on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>? He is Maurice Overholt, Lakeshore's new interim music director, who says "My tastes are very diverse, but my core is very close to what Lakeshore has been doing – high energy modern music, both Christian and secular. In fact, my favorite bands are U2 and Coldplay." In the short time Maurice has been at Lakeshore we've heard him sing romantic standards, contemporary Christian hits and his own original compositions.

I talked to Music and Programming Pastor Frank De Luccio about Maurice's role as interim music director. Pastor Frank shared that "God started revealing to me that we needed a dedicated Music Pastor about two years ago. I felt God telling me that it was time to pass the baton to someone new who would take the Music Team to places that God (in His infinite wisdom) has not allowed me to take them. God made it clear that my work at LCC was far from over and that there was something different at LCC that He had in store for me."

Maurice told me how he and Frank connected. "I first met Frank about 10 years ago when I had just begun playing in the worship bands at Browncroft Community Church. We played very briefly together until Frank took the position he now holds here at Lakeshore." As for this job, Maurice continues, "I love leading worship, writing and arranging music, and working with other musicians."

Frank adds "Although we did not lead worship together again until Maurice came on staff at Lakeshore, we kept in touch over that time, encouraging one another in our respective music ministries. When the opportunity to hire an interim music director opened up, Maurice was the first person I thought of because he brings a high level of musicianship to the position [he has a Masters degree in Music from the Eastman School of Music], he is an experienced band and vocal leader, and he brings ten years of experience leading and building a large music ministry."

Lakeshore had originally hoped to hire a full time music pastor, and Frank shared how this search led to Maurice's appointment. "When the door kept closing on the candidates we were looking at, Pastor Vince realized that we needed to do something that would provide short term relief for me, yet have the potential as a long term solution. That is how the idea of hiring an interim Music Director came about. Maurice happened to be available and was looking for something short term that would allow him to weigh out his options for a long-term position. So one hand is washing the other and it has turned out to be a win-win-win situation. A win for Maurice, a win for the Music Team, and me, and a win for the people of LCC."

Maurice took the position "in order to meet a need at Lakeshore and a need in my own life; this was the door God opened and I am so glad he did! Since then we have had time to work together and we are considering what is best for Lakeshore going forward. I am quite open to being here long-term, if that is what God desires; in fact, I would like that very much. In the meantime, though, I continue to look elsewhere in addition to discussing my future here, diligently looking for what God might want me to do."



## Finishing The Work Update

By Pastor Herb Lawrence

Our Finishing the Work campaign is seventy-five weeks into the three year monthly giving (through June 6, 2010). Our pledges totaled \$1,357,103 composed of \$574,028 in up-front gifts and \$783,075 over three years (weekly, monthly, annual and special pledges).

To date we have received \$918,452 consisting of \$580,493 up-front gifts and \$337,959 toward the 3 year total. Percentage-wise, we have received 68% of the total pledged, 101% of pledged up-front gifts, and 43% of the 3 Year total pledge. Using the three-year time (target = 75/156) we are 48% into the campaign. Using the pledged up-front and time target percentage of the three year total we are 70% into the campaign dollar-wise.

The table below illustrates where we stand on Finishing The Work.

	Pledge	Up Front	Over 3 Years
Pledge	\$ 1,357,103	\$ 574,028	\$ 783,075
Actual	\$ 918,452	\$ 580,493	\$ 337,959
Actual TD Percent	68%	101%	43%
Target TD Percentage	70%	100%	48%





### The Friend Ship Company

Summer's coming!! The kids are counting down the number of school days left and looking forward to vacation freedom. Here are some summer dates to keep in mind:

#### **Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> is Moving Up Day in the Friend Ship Company!**

Kids entering Kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in September will move up to their new Friend Ship Company classes. Kids entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be moving up to Ignite Student Ministries!

#### **Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> is Lakeshore Community Church at Seabreeze Day!**

From 11am to 10pm. Tickets will be on sale in the atrium after Sunday services starting at the end of June.

Every Sunday and Common Ground Thursday, a group of volunteers works hard to provide a terrific program that your kids will enjoy and want to return to. Both the Friend Ship Company and the Kids' CAFE need more volunteers. We invite you to join us in doing God's joyful work!

Please be sure to pick up a "Parent Link" newsletter in any of the Friend Ship Company classrooms. It's full of useful information on parenting and the latest trends. The June edition has details about free films and free bowling!!

### **You Are Vital to Your Child's Sunday School Experience**

How to Help Your Child Get the Most Out of Sunday School

1. Encourage your child to develop friendships at Sunday School.

*One of the strongest benefits the church provides your family is an extended "family" of both adult and childhood friends who support positive Christian values. Consistent attendance makes it easy for meaningful friendships to grow.*

2. Be consistent in bringing your child to Sunday School so that he or she will benefit from the biblical instruction.

*Children are surrounded by influences which are often in conflict with the truths of Scripture. Sunday School can be your child's most important hour out of every week!*

3. Cultivate friendships with your child's teachers.

*It's easier for you to approach two or three teachers than for them to personally contact the parents of all the children in their classes. Your support helps teachers do a good job!*

4. Watch for and talk with your child about the take-home materials provided each week.

*A few minutes of informal conversation at home can help to reinforce and apply the Bible truths your child has studied.*

5. Learn Bible memory verses with your child.

*Copy a verse onto a folded index card and set it on your breakfast table.*

6. Ask a few questions about the Bible story to see what your child remembers and understands – and talk about how the story illustrates familiar experiences at home or in the neighborhood. A good question is, "What is one way you can do what that story teaches us?"

7. During the week look for ways to connect a recent Bible verse or story to specific situations.

*For example, while watching TV, ask how a character's action compares with those of a person in a Bible story.*



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*The Children's Ministry guides our children towards God through worshipping, learning and growing together.*

## The Shame Of A Bully

By Mike Knox

The last series at Lakeshore Community Church, *Identity Theft*, reminded me of something from my childhood for which I have felt tremendous guilt all my life. Pastor Vince mentioned that he had done something when he was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and how it haunted him to this day.

I also have a similar memory, but it was not just one time, but a series of events lasting many years at my grammar school. I am so ashamed of my actions that it has robbed me of my identity. I took part in bullying and I never stood up for the victim. I was selfish, mean and hateful. I helped steal someone else's happy childhood so I could "feel better about me." I will never be able to repay this theft I took part in.

After that sermon I realized I needed to do something to get back my ID. So I wrote a letter of apology to the person I picked on. I do not expect anything back and it was my hope that saying I am sorry would bring that person some relief of the pain I helped cause.

I write this because I hope that those that read this take the opportunity to teach their children that being a bully does not make you "cool" or popular. It can bring guilt that you may not even feel for years but when it comes back it hits you like a ton of bricks.

Teach your children Jesus' second commandment: *"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Matthew 22:39). If they learn this and they realize just how important that this is they may have the courage to stand up for someone who is being targeted by a bully. I truly wish I had the courage to stand up and say NO, enough is enough.

Dealing with a bully may be part of most children's lives, but being cruel to others will not only hurt the other person; it also steals a part of your own identity that you may never get back.

## Choosing New Life Over Old Guilt

By MaryAnn Meisenzahl

'This is the day . . .' I was going to finish that sentence with, ' . . . I dreaded for so long,' but the words dangled in my brain silently and were replaced with "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

The dread I felt was in reference to a situation occurring over 50 years ago, one of hate and unforgiveness. A situation I wasn't a participant in, but realized once it culminated, I would be obligated to take the reins to direct the outcome. It promised a dirty, loud and twisted road for me. One pitted with great dysfunction going back two generations then spilling forward into the next two generations.

I thanked God for inspiring that beautiful scripture and bringing to vivid light His grace and mercy on me. I felt sad that my first reaction was one of fear and dread and not of reaching out to Jesus. After all He has done in my life I still believed, if even for a moment, that I could direct every move and nuance not only for myself, but also for those I loved.

Many times I have witnessed people so saddened by their past sins and present burdens they shed tears of remorse. I too have shed tears. This guilt is easily understood but extremely contradictory to Jesus. He took us as we were. Covered with the stain and stench of sin He made us His. He forgave us and loved us, warts and scars included. His enormous sacrifice and gift of love through torture and death on a cross for our sins has saved us. His resurrection into his Father's house has given us eternal life. All we have to do is accept it, ask for forgiveness and live with the knowledge we are born again in Christ. We're new human beings, replacing tears and guilt with smiles and gratitude by faith in Jesus.

When I think of who I was before, I feel the downward pull away from God. There is danger in living with the weight of remorse. The danger of feeling unworthy, of believing we couldn't live up to what God sees in us. The danger of thinking God is wrong. That he couldn't possibly love us enough to die for us. The danger of thinking tears could salve the wounds of a sinful life. Only God could do that.

We must learn from our past but not linger in it. It's gone, and in its place is new birth. We must tell our stories but not dwell in them. Our life should now be one of peace in knowing Jesus is here, even through the trouble and challenges that inevitably find us. When we're filled with sadness and fear for any of the thousands of events that could affect us let us focus on the risen Jesus waiting for all his saints to join him in heaven.

Truly, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."



# Family Corner: A Place for Kids and Their Families

By Andy Mitchell

## Theme: Reading the Bible

Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" Acts 8:30b-31a (CEV)

Have you ever tried to do something very hard, like climb to the top of a tall ladder or pick up a very heavy rock or share a toy with your brother or sister? There are things in the Bible that are very hard to understand, too. Just like Philip helps the official understand what he's reading, we can ask our families and Friend Ship Company teachers when we have questions about the Bible.

For Family Discussion:

What part of the Bible would our family like to read together?

Who can we ask when we're not sure what the Bible means?

## Baptism at LCC: 470 To Date And Counting!

By Amy Mitchell

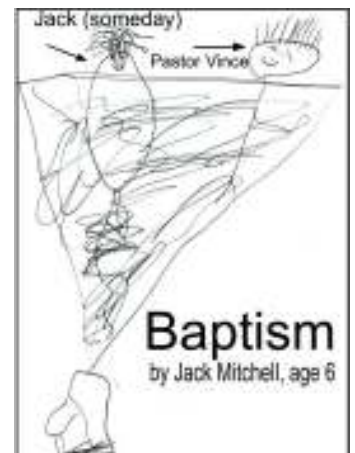
On April 29, 2010, LCC held another baptism celebration. Twenty-four people were baptized at the evening service: Marc Baglin, Tina M. Baxter, Guy Bianchi, Andrew A. Butkowski, Joyce Delgatti, Krista Dillon, James T. Dorschel, Danita Drake, Erich LaBarr, Samantha Lautner, Abby Malinka, Maria Messura, Olivier Montmayeur, Robin Montmayeur, Cathy Mucha, Rebecca Mull, Sharon M. Pelow, Gary Penny, Kathy Penny, Deborah Ronholm, Debra Schmeer, Melanie Shiree, Dori Sutherby, and Robert Sutherby.

Baptism is a way for Christians to make an outward statement about their inward faith. Each and every one of the stories shared at the celebration is a testimony about the incredible love that God has for all of us—and how our lives can be forever changed by that love and forgiveness.

Those of us who sat in the auditorium and listened were deeply affected by the stories. It would be impossible not to be moved when hearing how God brings healing to people dealing with loss, grief, addiction, abuse, and apathy. We all need to be reminded where we stood before Christ came into our own lives.

My son is only 6, yet he too was moved by what he saw and heard. In response to the baptisms, he drew a picture of what will happen when, someday, he too is baptized. Somehow, despite his few years, he understood just how precious baptism truly is.

Perhaps you were there, too. Was your spirit touched? Did you feel the love of God? Consider in prayer how God wants you to respond to the baptism celebration.







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[www.lakeshorechurch.org](http://www.lakeshorechurch.org)

*Real Encouragement* is published quarterly as a ministry of Lakeshore Community Church.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### OUR DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE

June 27 Being Free Inside  
July 4 Staying Free Inside

### MY SUMMER READING LIST

July 11 Rescued From An Ordinary Life  
July 18 All Things Are Possible  
July 25 The Blessed Man  
Aug 1 90% Of Life Is Relationships...And So Is The Other 10%  
Aug 8 Four P's In A Joy Pod  
Aug 15 Why Worry?  
Aug 22 Joint Service: Ark of Jesus, Victory Fellowship,  
New Way Christian, Shema Israel  
Aug 29 Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love

### ME, MYSELF AND WHY?

Sept 5 Becoming An Anti-Atlas  
Set.12 Everybody Needs Somebody

## COMMON GROUND MIDWEEK SERVICES

### A JET TOUR THROUGH REVELATION

June 17 The Revelation Of Christ's Second Coming  
July 1 The Revelation Of The World To Come

### RUTH: DEVOTION AND REDEMPTION

July 15 Devotion: The Power Of Loyalty  
Aug. 12 Providence: God At Work For Us  
Aug. 26 Faith: Taking The Next Step  
Sep. 2 Redemption: The Rescuing Work Of God  
  
Sep. 16 Vision Night 2010: Get the latest on LCC